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ABSTRACT

"Welfare to work" is an issue in the substance abuse field because of the high number of people on welfare who have a substance abuse problem. One-fourth of women on welfare either abuse or are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. For women ages 18-24 the incidence is as high as 37%, according to the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse. Community groups need to work with welfare to work programs so that substance abuse intervention and treatment is included. If treatment needs are not addressed, it will be difficult for substance abusing persons to succeed in these programs. This paper provides tips and resources to help communities undertake the needed steps to reduce substance use and abuse. It lists national organizations, publications, and the names of community leaders who have expertise in the welfare to work areas. (JDM)

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WELFARE TO WORK

Technical Assistance Packet

Join Together:
A National Resource for Communities Fighting Substance Abuse and Gun Violence

www.jointogether.org

April 2000

ED 456 354

Description of the Issue

Welfare to work is an issue in the substance abuse field because a high percentage of people who are on welfare have a substance abuse problem. According to a study by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse released in 1994, one-quarter of women on welfare abuse or are addicted to alcohol or other drugs. For women ages 18-24, the incidence is higher at thirty-seven percent. Therefore, community groups need to work with welfare to work programs so that substance abuse intervention and treatment is included. Substance abusing persons will not have success in the welfare to work program if their treatment needs are not addressed.

What follows is a list of national organizations, publications, community leaders with an expertise in the welfare to work area, and community stories.

National Organizations

Dept. of Labor, Employment & Training, Welfare to Work provides national and state policy highlights, key information, and a directory of services for individuals and employers, at wtw.doleta.gov/. U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Public Affairs, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Room S-1032, Washington, DC 20210; Tel: 202-693-4650.

Children and Family Futures is an organization dedicated to improving outcomes for children and families, particularly those affected by alcohol and other drugs by providing technical assistance and training to government, community-based organizations, and schools on strategic planning, evaluation, and measures of effectiveness. For more information, visit their website at www.cffutures.com or call 714-505-3525.

Treatment Improvement Exchange: Welfare Reform Special Topic – This webpage gives a list of documents and offers links to other websites about the topics. It can be accessed at www.treatment.org/Topics.welfare.htm.

Welfare to Work Partnership is a nonpartisan, nationwide effort designed to encourage and assist private sector businesses with hiring people on public assistance. Tel: 1-888-USA-JOB1; www.welfaretowork.org/

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Welfare Information Network is a clearinghouse for information, policy analysis and technical assistance on welfare reform. The Finance Project, 1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, Suite 600 Washington, D.C. 20005; www.welfareinfo.org/

The Legal Action Center specializes in legal and public policy issues in the intersecting areas of drug and alcohol abuse and AIDS. The Center takes legal action (including impact litigation), conducts public policy analysis and advocacy, and spearheads educational efforts to do a number of things including making welfare reform work for people with or in recovery from alcohol or drug problems. 236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE, Suite 505, Washington, D.C. 20002; Tel: 202-544-5478; www.lac.org/

Publications and How to Order Them

The publications listed here are both free and of modest cost.

- *Steps to Success: Helping Women With Alcohol and Drug Problems Move From Welfare to Work* This report profiles 20 alcohol and drug treatment programs in seven states that are models in meeting the needs of women with alcohol and drug problems who are on welfare. Available from the Legal Action Center, 236 Mass Avenue, NE, Washington, DC 20002; Tel: 202-544-5478.

- *Substance Abuse and Women on Welfare* - This report focuses on the population of adult individuals receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, (TANF), formerly Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) who abuse or are addicted to drugs and alcohol. It is available from the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, 152 West 57th Street, 12th Floor, New York, NY 10019-3310; Tel: 212-841-5200; Fax: 212-956-8020; www.casacolumbia.org.

- *Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment: Policy Choices in Welfare Reform* This publication examines the available data regarding States' experience with integrating substance abuse treatment into their welfare reform efforts. The publication was produced by SAMHSA, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment, in collaboration with the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors, 1996. For a copy, contact: NASADAD at 202-783-6868, or visit the 'publications' section of www.nasadad.org/.

- *Substance Abuse Treatment and Welfare Reform, TIE Communique, Fall 1998, Center for Substance Abuse Treatment* This special edition of the newsletter from CSAT's Treatment Improvement Exchange focuses on various issues related to welfare, welfare reform, and substance abuse treatment. This newsletter is available from The CDM Group, 5530 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 1600, Chevy Chase, MD 20815; Tel: 301-654-6740; Fax: 301-656-4012.

- *Integrating Alcohol and Drug Treatment into a Work-Oriented Welfare Program, Lessons from Oregon, June 1999.* This document shares key lessons that the state of Oregon learned while integrating alcohol and drug treatment into their welfare programs. Contact Jan Watterworth, Librarian, at Mathematica Policy Research, P.O. Box 2393, Princeton, NJ 08543-2393; 609-275-2350 or 609-275-2334 or view the document at www.mathinc.com/oregon.htm.

- *Substance Abuse and Welfare Reform, Prevention Pipeline, September/October 1998*
  This article discusses the barriers that people on welfare face while making the transition into work when substance abuse is part of their life. It also gives estimates of welfare costs. It is available from the National Clearinghouse on Alcohol and Drug Information at 800-729-6686.

- *Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment for Parents and Welfare Recipients: Outcomes, Benefits and Costs*
  This report examines substance abuse treatment outcomes for parents and welfare recipients. The study reanalyzes data originally collected by the State of California regarding individuals who received drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in California during 1991-92. It finds that welfare recipients have similar drug and alcohol treatment outcomes to those of the general population of persons receiving substance abuse treatment. Copies can be obtained by faxing a request to 202-690-5514 or from the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation's web site at aspe.os.dhhs.gov/.

- *Implementing Welfare Reform: Solutions to the Substance Abuse Problem* is a comprehensive guidebook for state and local policymakers to solve the alcohol and other drug problems among the welfare population. The guidebook details the process of planning states' responses to welfare reform including details to accomplish ten implementation steps. The guidebook can be ordered from Drug Strategies at www.drugstrategies.org or by calling them at 202-663-6090.

National and Community Leaders

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PROMESA
331 East 175th Street
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Fax: 718-583-6366

Community Stories:

Oregon shows success integrating welfare and treatment. Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Weekly, July 19, 1999. Strong state leadership and a clear vision of the role of alcohol and drug treatment as part of the transition to employment facilitated the creation of an infrastructure for integrating alcohol and drug treatment into a work-oriented welfare program at the local level. The state made local welfare offices accountable for addressing alcohol and drug problems among their clients. Contact the Adult and Family Services Division of the Oregon Department of Human Resources at 503-945-5601.

The *State of California* has developed a number of initiatives that integrate welfare to work and substance abuse treatment through its CALWORKS program. Substance abuse treatment has been identified in CalWORKs as a support service which will be necessary to assist some CalWORKs recipients to become job ready and subsequently, to retain those jobs. Collaboration between the County Welfare Departments and the county alcohol and drug programs is a required component of CalWORKs to ensure that a system is available to provide substance abuse services to those recipients whose substance abuse problem creates a barrier to employment. Contact the California Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs at 916-324-5521.

The *City of Chicago* has received $8.7 million to enable the Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse to provide substance abuse screening, assessments and treatment to an additional 2,600 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients beginning in October, 1999. Studies estimate 15% - 25% could benefit from substance abuse treatment. Contact Susan Weed at 312-747-9447.